

VIRGINIA HUD LINES

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E-Briefs from the Richmond Office of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

800/842-2610, extension 3742

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www.hud.gov/virginia

KATRIN-AID

At a joint Washington press conference, HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson and Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff unveiled plans to provide transitional housing assistance to households displaced by Hurricane Katrina that will, said Jackson, fill “the housing void” and help evacuees “get back on their feet.” Under HUD’s new KDHP plan, Housing Choice voucher holders and residents of public and assisted housing displaced by the hurricane as well as those who were homeless prior to Katrina’s landfall will receive up to 18 months of housing assistance at 100 percent of the Fair Market Rent in the community to which the evacuees choose to relocate. KDHP will be administered by HUD’s network of public housing authorities. For households not meeting these criteria, FEMA – a part of Homeland Security – will provide an initial three-month rental payment of \$2,358 through its Individual and Household Program. IHP funds also are “portable” to the community to which evacuees relocate. For more information about both programs, visit <http://www.hud.gov/news/release.cfm?content=pr05-130.cfm> or call HUD’s Hurricane Hotline at 1-888-297-8685. In Mortgagee Letter 2005-33 HUD imposed a 90-day moratorium on foreclosures of FHA-insured homes in the Katrina disaster area.

SHELTER FROM THE STORM(S)

Got a spare apartment unit or house to help shelter Katrina evacuees? Please register it at www.hurricanehousing.net And thanks.

THE NEXT TIME. . .

Is your community ready for the next “Big One”? Virginia’s Department of Emergency Management is holding a workshop in Richmond October 5th to 7th on an upcoming \$37 million FEMA disaster mitigation grant competition. Applications for the FEMA grants are due at VDEM December 2nd with grants of up to \$1 million for planning and \$3 million for structural projects. Eligible applicants must have Hazard Mitigation Plan approved by FEMA by Spring 2006.

For more, contact Deborah.mills@vdem.virginia.gov or 804-897-6500, extension 6563.

FHA-ST TRACK

FHA Commissioner Brian Montgomery has announced that, beginning in January, “high performing” FHA lenders will now be able to endorse FHA-insured mortgages without a pre-endorsement review by HUD. Based on a pilot conducted by Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, processing time will be cut by a third and lender costs by 25 percent. More details are available in HUD Mortgagee Letter 2005-36. The Mortgage Bankers Association says the program will make “it easier for lenders to offer affordable FHA financing to more American families.” Lenders must have an acceptable default rate to participate and participation is renewed annually. In addition, Mortgagee Letter 2005-34 says that, also in January, FHA is retiring two appraisal forms – Valuation Conditions (HUD-92564-VC) and Notice to Homebuyer (HUD 92564-HS) – and replacing them with forms used by Fannie Mae.

BRIEF BRIEFS

Fair Market Rents for fiscal year 2006 now on-line at www.huduser.org/datasets/fmr.html. . .September 8th *Federal Register* makes firefighters and emergency medical technicians eligible to buy HUD homes in revitalization areas at a discount under HUD’s Officer Next Door Sales Program . . . Danville Redevelopment & Housing is one of just three organizations nationwide to win a 2005 HUD HOPE VI Mentoring grant . . . Virginia Supportive Housing celebrates grand opening of Independence House in Richmond, first, HUD Section 811 group home for people with spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries. . .September 8th *Federal Register* sets November 7th as submission deadline for \$28.4 million in 2005 HUD Self Help Homeownership Opportunity Program for nonprofits to foster “innovative” homeownership on national or regional basis. . .Governor Warner designates new Enterprise Zones in Bedford, Hampton, Hopewell, Petersburg, Wythe and, for the first time, Lee counties. . .*Virginia Pilot* reports that first three families have moved out of hotels and into new homes thanks to Virginia Beach Community Development’s new “Housing First” initiative. . .U.S. Small Business Administration names Debra Ruh of Rockville as Virginia’s Minority Small Business Person of the Year . . . Glen Sink starts as director of new Center for Rural Virginia. . .October 14th is application deadline for National Trust for Historic Preservation Great American Main Street awards . . . Congressman Rick Boucher announces \$500,000 Appalachian Regional Commission grant to upgrade Big Caney water project that serves 1/3 of Dickenson County’s residents . . . City of Roanoke and Old Southwest, Inc., launches series of workshops on how to renovate a home in an historic neighborhood. . .DHCD’s Basil Gooden picked for Leadership Metro Richmond’s “class of 2006”. . .Though Tax Time is months away, Earned Income Tax Credit coalitions in Fredericksburg (540/373-0041) and South Hampton Roads (757/270-6726) already are recruiting volunteers. . .Center for Community Development of Portsmouth wins \$500,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture grant to promote economic development on Eastern Shore, Hampton Roads and Middle Peninsula. . .HUD Richmond okays 36-unit, \$1.8 million Enfield Gardens Apartments in Norfolk. . .Katherine Nunez named as Northampton County’s first female county administrator. . .Housing authorities in Alexandria, Chesapeake, Danville, Hampton, Harrisonburg, Newport News, Norfolk, Petersburg, Portsmouth, Richmond, Roanoke, Virginia Beach, Waynesboro and Albemarle, Fairfax, James City, Loudoun and Prince William counties and VHDA win \$1.3 million in 2005 HUD Family Self-Sufficiency grants. . .*Congratulations to F.O.R.* Kids of Norfolk, Fairfax County’s Affordable Housing Preservation Initiative, ElderHomes of Richmond and Greenville County for winning Virginia Housing Awards at 2005 Governor’s Housing Conference in Roanoke.

GETTING THE LEAD OUT

The City of Lynchburg and Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development each has won a 2005 HUD Lead Hazard Control Grant of \$3 million, part of a \$139 million in awards in 26 states described by HUD Secretary Jackson as “another step toward ending childhood lead poisoning once and for all.”

DHCD will make 100 homes in 12 communities lead safe and train 50 people in lead hazard control while Lynchburg will produce 180 lead-safe units.

PROTECTING THE PROTECTORS

“To better serve one of the nation’s largest veteran and active-duty populations,” Governor Warner announced a Granting Freedom program of grants of up to \$4,000 to wounded or disabled veterans – including active-duty, National Guard and Reservists serving in Iraq or Afghanistan - to make homes or apartments more accessible DHCD and VHDA will administer the program that’s already raised \$1 million in private and public funds. For more, visit

http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/ADMIN/Whats_new.htm

BUSY, BUSY, BUSY

October’s a busy month in Virginia. DHCD holds “Getting Started in Affordable Housing” workshop in Warrenton on October 3rd & 4th. Tidewater Builders Association 13-day Homarama starts October 9th in Broad Creek neighborhood of Norfolk. Northern Virginia Association of REALTORS holds annual convention October 12th in Tysons Corner. Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Inc., conducts “How to Spot a Predatory Loan” workshop in Richmond on October 13th. 20th annual Virginia Preservation Conference runs October 16th through 18th in Lynchburg. Virginia Association of Mortgage Bankers meet from October 17th to 19th in Virginia Beach. Greater Piedmont Area REALTORS’ annual trade show kicks-off October 18th in Warrenton. DHCD holds Housing Rehabilitation Workshop in Virginia Beach October 18th & 19th. Association of Energy Conservation Professionals holds Green Living Expo in Roanoke October 21st & 22nd. Virginia Association of Planning Districts hosts 2005 GIS conference in Richmond October 24th and 25th. Virginia Municipal League holds 100th – yes, 100th! – annual convention October 23rd to 25th in Richmond.

DON’T FORGET

HUD has established toll-free hotline at 1-888-297-8685 to help disaster victims with housing concerns. Line is open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., C.D.T., seven days a week.

Don't want to receive any more issues of Virginia HUD Line? Delete yourself by replying to this e-transmission with the message "Signoff VIRGINIA-HUD LINES-L" in the body of your reply message.